

the science, as opposed to the ignorant superstitions and rough predictions of Hindu astrologers and empirics of the old school." It is probable that his projected book was not published; there is no copy of any portion of it in the Society's library, and the writer of the notice in the *Madras Mail* does not refer to it.

JAMES SWEETMAN EIFFE was the second son of Luke Eiffe, Esq., of Norman's Grove and Tirlstone, near Dublin, a gentleman of hunting celebrity in the past generation. He was born at his father's town residence in Ratland Square on December 25, 1804, and was intended for the army, an uncle offering him a commission; but a passion for horology overcoming every other consideration, he, soon after the completion of the full course of his collegiate education, and in opposition to the wishes of his family, directed his whole energies to the pursuit of his favourite science, and made everything subordinate to the one object of making the chronometer a perfect time-keeper. For his inventions for equalising the rates of chronometers in extremes of temperature, he received from the Government a reward, which, however, he only accepted as part payment of his claim. He also made various improvements in the astronomical clock. In 1842, an account of his improvements in chronometers was published by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

From a pecuniary point of view his efforts were unremunerative, and he exhausted his private resources and those of his wife in his experiments. He leaves a widow and an only son. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on April 8, 1842. He died at Ashford, Kent, on October 28, 1880.

JOHN GEORGE COCKBURN CURTIS GODSMAN, whose death was announced in last year's Report, was born on April 6, 1817. When five years old he accompanied his father, an officer in the Royal Navy, on a voyage to India. He remained about two years at Madras, and then returned to England, and was educated at the Royal Naval School at Greenwich. At the age of thirteen he entered the Royal Navy as a volunteer of the first class, and sailed to Mauritius, whence he returned in about three years. At the age of seventeen he was appointed to H.M.S. *Sulphur* as midshipman, and the principal part of the ten subsequent years was spent by him at sea. Upon his return to England, having quitted the Royal Navy, he was, in conjunction with Captain Wolfe and Lieutenant Beechy, directed by the Admiralty to make a survey of the Cove of Cork. Upon the completion of this survey he entered the Hydrographer's office. In 1845 he was selected by the Admiralty for the discharge of important duties in connection with the Tidal Harbours Commission. From 1846 to 1849 he was employed by the local authorities as well as by the Admiralty to conduct investigations upon the tidal phe-

nomena of the Mersey, Nene, and Dee. In May 1849 he surveyed the lower portion of the river Nene, in connection with the Admiralty inquiry into the Norfolk Estuary Bill of that year; and in April 1850 he reported to the Admiralty on the proposed Hartlepool West Harbour and Docks.

In 1852 he was at New York engaged in the Croton Aqueduct department. He then went to Spain, and for a considerable time worked under the Spanish Government in the irrigation of the 'Patrimonia Reale.' In 1861, as Admiralty Inspector, he held an inquiry on the proposed Nene Valley Drainage and Navigation Works. In 1864, he went to Turkey, and was employed on the Smyrna and Casaba Railway. His last work was in 1868, when he was requested to report upon the utilisation of the fresh-water supply of the Thorney river, a tributary to the Nene.

In 1877 he had a slight attack of paralysis, from which, however, he quickly recovered. On December 4, 1879, he was stricken with apoplexy in Westminster, and died on the following day.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on January 10, 1845; he was also a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

He was known for the greater part of his life as Mr. John George Cockburn Curtis, the name of Godsmen having been assumed by him only in recent years.

HENRY PARR HAMILTON, whose death was announced in last year's Report, was the son of Alexander Hamilton, physician, Professor in the University of Edinburgh, and was descended from an elder branch of the ducal family of the same name. He was born on April 3, 1794, and was educated at the High School, Edinburgh, under Dugald Stewart. He thence proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, having been entered on the side of Mr. Young. In the Admission Book of the college, under date October 21, 1811, he gives his native place as Blandfield, Midlothian, and the name of his master as Dr. Baird. He entered the college as a pensioner and was elected scholar in 1814. He graduated as ninth wrangler, in 1816, Whewell being second wrangler, and Richard Sheepshanks tenth wrangler, in the same year. He was elected Fellow of Trinity in 1818, at the same time as Connop Thirlwall and J. C. Hare, and held various college offices from 1819 to 1830: viz., Sub-Lecturer (*i.e.* examiner in the college examinations), 1820, 1821, 1823, 1825; Latin Lecturer, 1824; Head Lecturer (*i.e.* chief examiner), 1830; Junior Dean, 1823-25, Senior Dean, 1825-30. In 1830 he was presented by the Marquis of Ailesbury to the rectory of Wath, near Ripon, where he remained until 1850, when he was appointed Dean of Salisbury, in succession to the Very Rev. Francis Lear. He died at Salisbury on Feb. 7, 1880, aged 86. For the last twenty years of his life his health was very weak, and he seldom appeared in public. The restoration of the Cathedral was, however, a subject of great interest with him to the last. He may be said to